

Remarks

This is a Response to the Official Action dated February 24, 2005.

Claims 1-28 and 42-43 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 42-43 are herein withdrawn without prejudice from consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1-28

This response amends Claim 2 to recite that “at least one optical fiber of said optical wires comprises a segment of an optical fiber.” Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 6, line 8 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 13-14, 16, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 3,963,920). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner is reminded that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131 quoting *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co, of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The Examiner is also reminded that “[the] identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” MPEP 2131 quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Palmer teaches each and every element as set forth in the rejected claims. In particular:

Claim 1

-Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Palmer discloses, suggests or teaches, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

“optical wires are bonded onto said microchips and optically connected therewith ” (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the “optical wires” as recited in Claim 1 are disclosed by Palmer’s “connector leads 33.” See page 3, section 4 of the Official Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion. The Examiner appears to misunderstand the teaching of Palmer. According to Palmer, “connector leads 33” are metal. See Figure 2 and column 2, lines 34-35 of Palmer. Because Palmer discloses connector leads 33 as being made out of metal, how can metal leads 33 be considered as “optical wires” as recited in Claim 1? Further, how can metal leads 33 be “optically connected” to a chip as recited in Claim 1?

Applicants submit that Palmer does not teach, disclose or suggest that “optical wires are bonded onto said microchips and optically connected therewith” as recited in Claim 1.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Palmer and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 13-14, 16, 23 and 25, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over Palmer.

-Applicants also submit that the Examiner has not shown that Palmer discloses, suggests or teaches, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

“optical wires are bonded onto said **microelectronic chips** and optically connected therewith ” (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the “microelectronic chips” as recited in Claim 1 are disclosed by Palmer’s “flatpack 10.” See page 3, section 4 of the Official Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion. According to Palmer, the “flatpack 10” includes a semiconductor regions 26, a photodetector array 20, and an optical fiber termination assembly 12 disposed on a substrate 30 that are hermetically sealed in a ceramic or metallic enclosure. See column 2, lines 25-37

of Palmer. Contrary to the teaching of Palmer, “chip” as recited in Claim 1 is “a very small piece of semiconductor, especially in a computer, that contains extremely small electronic circuits and devices, and can perform particular operations.” See an enclosed printout from a website <http://www.freesearch.co.uk/dictionary>. Applicants submit that a “flatpack 10” that contains separate devices on a substrate as disclosed in Palmer does not teach disclose or suggest “microelectronic chip” as recited in Claim 1.

Hence, Claim 1 is for this reason also patentable over Palmer and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 13-14, 16, 23 and 25, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over Palmer.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 5, 9, 11-12, 15, 17-22, 24 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Palmer. Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 5, 9, 11-12, 15, 17-22, 24 and 26-28, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over Palmer. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

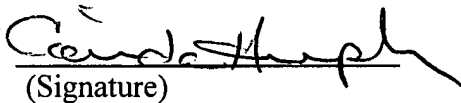
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

May 24, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey

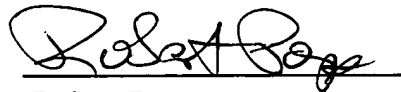
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

May 24, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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